FROM THE FIELD.

To the Brethren of Indiana.

Inasmuch as the time for our state conference is rapidly approaching us, we should begin to think and talk about it. We want to make our conference do even more this year if possible for the cause of Christ through the Brethren church than last year. To do this we should begin to do early those things which we can and should do, before the meeting of the conference.

As chairman of the conference I wish to call attention to two things now.

1st. Where shall we hold our conference this year? This question should be answered soon. The executive committee will meet soon, and would like to decide at their meeting where the conference will meet, Sept. 25, 26 and 27. But how can they decide if no place or church desires it. Therefore, will those churches in the state, that would desire the conference to be held at their place, send to me in behalf of the committee, their request for the conference, so that the committee may act upon the same in June? Please to be prompt in this if you desire to have the conference, for to know this soon will add to the success of our work.

2nd. There was a motion passed last year at our conference like this: 'Moved, that the question of a delegated conference be submitted to the different churches for adoption or rejection before next conference.'

The object in submitting this question to the local churches will be understood by all, we think. It is to keep the power for deciding such questions in the local churches where it belongs. Therefore the conference has asked the churches to decide the question before its next meeting. Will the different congregations, now act upon it, before the meeting of the conference? For one, I would urge upon it being done at as early a date as convenient, so that if desired, we may know whether we shall meet this year as a delegated conference or not? It seems to me that if we could know this before the conference meets, we could make our preparations more complete. Brethren think on it; act on it. We shall have more to say about it after while. God grant that we all may do what we can to make Christ's cause a success.

W. C. PERRY.

Waterloo, Iowa.

May 8.—As items of church news seem to be called for and encouraging, we will be pleased to report some from this place. This spring Bro. Wise, who had preached for us a year, expressed a desire for a change in his labors, and Bro. E. L. Hildebrand kindly consented to follow him in the ministerial work here, and by the way, is doing the work quite acceptably. Yet the territory here has been too large for one minister since the first organization, and there were many calls that had to be neglected for want of ministerial help.

About the middle of April Bro. Wise started out to do some missionary work in a place about seventeen miles north of Waterloo, where the Brethren were not much known, and as a result has organized a church of twenty-three members. Which shall be known as the Brethren church at Waverly Junction, and it is certainly a lively and interesting organization of Brethren.

They made choice of Bro. Wise as their Elder until arrangements can be made for help from some other source in case Bro. Wise should leave. At the time of their organization, Bro. Winfield Cuffle was chosen Deacon; Bro. Clement, Treas.; and Sister Wm Meddlers, Sec. There was much union manifested and the choice for officials was certainly wisely made. As a church, they all seem to be 'willing workers' for the Master's cause, and we feel confident that their efforts will be crowned with success, as there are at present six or seven applicants for baptism at that place. On last Sunday Bro. J. Hostetler was with them and they organized a Sunday School.

At Enon on Sunday last, there was one received into the church by relation and also one in the evening, the same, in Waterloo. On the same day Bro. Wise administered baptism to four persons in the Cedar river in Waterloo. At present writing there are still more applicants for membership here, and so the good work goes on, all for which we have great reasons to rejoice.

E. SHOWALTER.

Lathrop, California.

On Saturday evening, April 27th, the members of the Brethren church at Lathrop enjoyed a communion service, which was very refreshing. Among those present from a distance were Bro. and Sister J. W. Beer, Bro. and Sister C. E. Doty, Bro. Henry Ebe, and Sister Sadie Russel and her husband, all of the 'West Side,' or as we sometimes say, of the Altamont congregation. Sister Miller, of San Jose, late of Tiosa, Ind., was with us for the first time. We were glad to meet her, as we had often heard of Bro. and Sister Miller's family spoken of in words of commendation. They live about sixty miles from Lathrop, in what we call the Garden Spot of California. In fact, the city of San Jose is known as the Garden City. While we are thus separated, and they, as well as others, do not have the privilege of attending church services very often conducted by their own people, we trust it may be better in the future.

Bro. and Sister Gibson, of Turlock, Merce Co., who lately lived in this congregation were also present, and were glad to enjoy the fellowship of kindred spirits.

Bro. S. J. Holsinger made us a return visit. He is now living in Amador Co., but managed it so as to be present at this meeting. Last, but not least, I mention the name of our Bro. B. G. Frederick, of Ripon, as another of our guests. Bro. Frederick used to be quite a regular correspondent for the EVANGELIST, and as such is known by its readers. All of the members have our thanks for the sacrifice, some, if not all of them, made to be with us at our late communion.

There is great encouragement given to each other by thus frequently visiting. Bro. H. R. Holsinger officiated, and brethren Beer and Doty assisted. Bro. Holsinger is at this writing visiting and preaching for the Brethren in Coos Co., Oregon, and will be absent about two weeks longer, when we expect him back to resume his pastorate work among us. His labor is appreciated by all, I think, and we are getting along very pleasantly and profitably. We have services every Sunday morning and evening. We invite any who are passing this way to stop and see how we do.

J. P. WOLFE.

Preacher's Relief Society.

The time has evidently come for our preachers to formulate some plan, looking to the relief of their families. No one can doubt the importance of such provisions. The young man who enters the ministry, enters a vacation to which money-making is closed. In some few cases he is secured in an independent competency by inheritence, marriage or a chance investment of small means. His average support is about half the wages of a skilled laborer, all his life it is a duty as well as a privilege to set an example of liberal giving to benevolent operations of the church. Any attempt to transfer his ministry into a money-making calling would lower it from its position as a spiritual power to selfish ends. Now at the close of their self-denying life, there is liability to absolute want for themselves and family in case of old age or death, after a life, useful to the church, will leave their families in needy circumstances. In view of above fact is the only apology I offer in proposing to the ministers of the brethren, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the preachers of the Brethren church organize a Preacher's Relief Society, for their mutual benefit and that a committee be appointed to formulate a plan and by-laws.

It has occured to me this could be arranged on the mutual plan, each member having fixed sums when a death occurs in the society, to be paid as directed by the deceased. A membership of 200 or 300, perhaps more, could be raised, and a few dollars at each decease would be but small, yet a great help to a lone widow.

The above is for your ratification or rejection. Let us hear from you either through the EVANGELIST or by mail.

E. B. SHAVER.

Funkstown, Md.

Trans Missouri Flashes.

May 6.—Much wind has been the order of the last few days.

Sometimes preachers and writers get too windy.

We preached in the city of Parsons, last Friday evening. We were favored with a good congregation. We believe that the Brethren church could get quite a foothold in that city if the matter was worked up.

If we who write for the EVANGELIST would be less sensitive and better humored, we might make it a useful and booming free rostrum.

Plain talk is not necessarily discourteous, but we may make it so.

No man can be a Christian unless he is a gentleman, no woman can be a Christian unless she is a lady, yet men may be gentlemen, and women ladies, yet not be Christians.

No better advice was ever given than in Eccl. 12: 13. Let everybody heed it, and there will be no trouble.

O how we folks busy ourselves here and there about less important matters while we let the more important slip.

How a Congregational church can split in a general sense is a mystery to me. To my mind, Episcopacy is at the bottom of all schism.

No two persons entertain the same sentiments on everything.

Never conclude that a person is dishonest because he differs with you, the noblest of men are sometimes in error,

Now for a forward move against the forts of sin, with the motto emblazoned on our banner that God will do right.

I like to have brethren say, I preach in the name of Christ—Christ is more than the church.

In everything that men do they should be influenced by conscientious convictions.

A creed bigger than the Bible is too big. One smaller, is too small. One different is wrong. One just like the Bible is as useless as the fifth wheel in a wagon.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

Montana, Kan.

OUR CHURCH.

We learn that the Union meeting in Philadelphia produced no beneficial fruits.

Thomas Gibson sends us about one dollar for books, and fails to give us his address. We can do nothing until we hear from him.

Bro. J. W. Reighard has changed his address from Mineral Point, Pa., to Adrian, where we understand, he is the pastor of the churches

Bro. Kilhefner is enthusiastic in his endeavors to make the coming Convention at Pleasant Hill, a profitable season. The program appears elsewhere.

The Christian Endeavor of the Ashland City Church will meet on Saturday afternoon, May 18, at the home of Sister Elmer Worst. Let all the sisters come to the meeting.

The services at the College enjoyed an improved attendance the last two Lord's days. Loyalty to Christ as the great and only Head of the Church, and his gospel as the only statues in religion is our motto.

We are glad to notice that Bro. H. G. Ullery is encouragad. He and the little band at Covington have faithfully held the fort for years at Covington, stood the siege, and are now ready to march out to save souls and proclaim gospel liberty to the captives. May God sanctify and bless the labors of Bro. Kilhefner and the church at Covington.

Communion notice.—We will hold a communion in the Mt. Pleasant Brethren church, Williams Co., Ohio, on Wednesday evening, May 29th, commencing at 8 o'clock. Will also hold one at Bryan, Ohio, on Saturday evening, June 1st, commencing at 7 o'clock. All of like precious faith are cordially invited to attend each of these services.—A. M. Ridenour, Elder.

Bro. I. D. Bowman went to Louisville, Ohio, on Monday last to commence a protracted meeting, and expects to remain some time if the work renders it needful. He spent Lord's Day at Ankenytown and North Liberty, Ohio, and baptized two into Christ's fold. The work is moving on vigorously at both places. A flourishing Sunday School is in progress at Ankenytown—the large, beautiful church is full of Sunday School they say—and the house at North Liberty was packed full on Lord's Day evening. In both of these villages the Brethren are the leading churches.

Bro. J. M. Tombaugh returned last week, from a pleasant visit to the church at Winchester, Farmersville and West Alexandria, in the Miami Valley. He admires the zeal of the brethren at Winchester, especially, and the admirable singing of the congregation at that village.

The Chairman of the Indiana State Convention publishes a notice this week to urge the Indiana churches to prepare for the coming State Conference. It will be noticed also, that the churches are requested to take lots upon the resolution whether the Conference shall be a delegate body or not, by the expressed authority of the churches. This principle is the only sound one in dealing with questions that concern all the churches, under the Congregational form of Church Government. Really, any resolutions passed by a gathering of members and put upon the churches to carry out, without first obtaining their voice in support of such resolution, is a sort of pompous audacity that should be stung till it dies.

Sister Fanny Poley writes from Lostine, Wallowa Co., Oregon, April 3rd, 1889:—Do you not know of a minister who would come and preach for us? There are already eight or ten members and I feel sure good could be done here. It is said to be very healthful here, as well as a pleasant climate, fine soil, plenty of timber, and water of the best quality. We would be much pleased to hear from some one who is contemplating a western tour. Now I want to say a word concering brother Lair's pieces. Sveral have read his piece on the exposition of the prophecies, who understand the prophecies, and claim they are just right and are highly pleased to say if more such pieces were written people could learn something worth knowing. I hope we can hear from him again. One that has studied and learned so much from the prophets should continue to write, for so few seem interested enough in the prophecies, thinking they are useless, when in reality they are the cream of God's word and open up the deep and wonderful plan of salvation, revealed only through the prophets. More study of the prophecies would throw a great light upon many seemingly hard scriptures.

NORTH MANCHESTER, IND.—The trouble in the North Manchester church has finally been settled. This church, while one of the most promising in the brotherhood, has been hindered in its work by a local difficulty. Some time ago Eld. J. H. Swihart was elected elder of the church, and he went earnestly to work to establish harmony as far as possible and a working condition in the church affairs. He called to his assistance Bro. Noah Heeter, of Akron, Ind., and after much faithful and devoted work upon the line of gospel and love, the following resolution was passed.

Resolved that we this day, May 7th, 1889, drop forever all past differences and henceforth labor together in peace, according to the gospel of Christ, and the principles of the general brotherhood.

The North Manchester church is one of the largest in Indiana, and has a glorious opportunity before it. The village is a beautiful one, is surrounded by a splendid country filled with people reared under the influences of the Tunker faith. The church house owned by the congregation is a good one, a large Lord's Day school is maintained, and an enthusiastic Endeavor Society organized which did much toward building up fraternal feeling among the members. It is with joy that we give publicity to this good news, and trust that Elder Swihart and Heeter with all the peace-makers concerned will have the gratifying privilege of seeing their labors of love result in great prosperity for the Brethren Church at North Manchester. Grace be unto all from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.